DIMENOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 27 No. 1

January 15, 1959

Whole No. 313



Important Dime Novels #2

Beadles Dime Novel No. 1 dated June 1, 1860

Mr. Howard B. Silsbee nominated this one as the most important dime novel published. It was not only the first dime novel published, but it revolutionized the novel—from \$1.50 to 10c—so that it made reading popular with the masses. It gave the term "Dime Novel" to all inexpensive popular reading matter and it is still used today in that sense.

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DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

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This year there has been a net increase of 13 members. Two members died during 1958, Willis E. Hurd and Joseph Katz. Nine members were dropped through disinterest or other causes: Edward J. Smeltzer, J. C. Dykes, Jack Neiburg, Mrs. H. B. Patten, Forest Hull, C. L. Messecar, Albert F. Johnson, A. Nugent, Jr., and George Hart. 24 new members were enrolled beginning with No. 193 above.

At the suggestion of a subscriber, a directory service will be instituted beginning with next month's issue of The Round-Up. It will consist of the name, address and the special interest of the subscriber. Cost of this directory service will be \$1.00 for 4 monthly insertions. The descriptive line should be limited to 20 words or less.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings Fisherville, Mass.

Albert Johannsen has indexed the song titles in 118 of the 120 Songsters which were issued by Beadle. Before publishing this Index, he would like to hear from any who has either of the following two, so that they may be entered, thus completing the lot. Chanticleer Songster: No. 3 of the American Series (c) 1866. Archy Hughes' George the Charmer Songbook; Frank Starr's Songbook No. 1.

Benny Tighe wants "The Boys World," a Sunday School paper for 1913, should any one have any of them.

Bill Burns still has a lot of old boys books to sell yet, send for lists of your wants.

E. Marvin Smith and wife had a fine trip this last summer over to England and back.

Ken Daggett has been working as hard as ever, no time for anything else, but wait till he gets started on his hobbies this winter.

What's wrong with Col. Charles D. Randolph, heap long time me no hear from him.

Lou Kohrt went up to see both George Sahr and Albert E. Johnson. A fine trip.

EXCHANGE COLUMN

For Sale. S&S and Tousey Weeklies such as New York Detective Liby., Buffalo Bill Stories, Pluck and Luck, All Around, etc. George Sahr, 7025 31st St., Kenosha, Wis.

On Stage, Mr. Carter

by J. Edward Leithead

(continued from last issue)

Any paperback library which lasted as long as Magnet and New Magnet (one and the same, as Nick Carter Weekly and New Nick Carter Weekly were the same periodical), reaching a total of 1369 issues, or maybe a few more, before it folded, necessarily used up a lot of detective stories. Some of the New York Weekly "Nick Carter' serials didn't get reprinted for sometime, but eventually . . . "A Fatal Bargain" (Vol. 64, No. 21) turned up in New Magnet #717; "A Fatal Falsehood" (Vol. 64, No. 44) in #729; "At Face Value" (Vol. 65, No. 4) in #735; "A Vain Sacrifice" (Vol. 65, No. 14) in #742. There were others. Who wrote them? Probally Fred Dey, Eugene Sawyer-and Fred Davis.

Of shorter life even than the Shield Weekly was the Dick Dobbs Detective Weekly, started in 1909. Publisher was the George Marsh Company, New York.

Supposed to have been written by "Shadow Steve," millionaire detective Dick Dobbs' assistant, the real author of these NINE stories was Bill Brown, whom I have heard was a Frank Tousey writer. Certainly someone experienced in that kind of writing did them, for they were good detective stories with plenty of thrills. Possibly it was William Perry Brown, who did some Nick Carters for New Magnet. Until recently it was thought that eight of these stories had been published, but in the September ROUND-UP, Ralph Smith offered for sale a set of DICK DOBBS Detective Weekly #1 to 9, so #9 was issued. Because they are so scarce, and collectors may wish to have a list of them for future reference, I'd like to put the 9 titles on record:

#1, The Great Trunk Mystery, or, Dick Dobbs on a Hot Trail, #2, A Fight in the Air, or, Dick Dobbs' Airship, #3, The Deep Sea Tragedy, or, Dick Dobbs' Submarine, #4, A Finish Fight With Twin Seeley, or, Dick Dobbs Foils a Shrewd Plan, #5, In the Nick of Time, or, Dick Dobbs Among the Counterfeiters, #6, A Hole in the Wall, or, Dick Dobbs Among the Moonshiners, #7, The Frozen Face, or, Dick Dobbs Among the Smugglers, #8, The Moving Picture Swindle, or, Dick Dobbs Deals a Daring Blow, #9, Crime's Greatest Conception, or, Dick Dobbs on His Mettle.

The masthead of this color cover weekly, with Dick Dobbs in silk topper, and no doubt (though we are afforded but a limited view), white tie and tails, and the pictures which illustrate the covers are all of a high dime novel order. I do not recognize the artist, but they could pass for Nick Carter Weekly covers and the stories-well, here's the clever climax to #7. "The Frozen Face": Dick Dobbs and Shadow Steve are in Detroit, and, after terrific adventures, are ready to round up the fur smugglers. Just how the latter are getting the furs across the Canadian border into the U. S. isn't known. There's a small ferry that operates on the river between Windsor and Detroit. Dick, Steve and Jimmy, a New York newsboy who sometimes assisted Dobbs, have followed a suspect, Count Claremont, to the Canadian side. Here Dick instructs Steve to wait with Jimmy at the ferry-house and starts out at the heels of the Count:

"After about two hours Steve and Jimmy were interested to see a great procession approaching the ferry. At the front was a carriage bedecked with ribbons, while behind followed other carriages and many people. Then suddenly Dick Dobbs appeared before Steve.

"'We are going with the bridal party,' he laughed. 'The carriages you see have nothing to do with it and the people are following the line of carriages, but it makes quite a sendoff for the bridal pair, does it not? The bridal carriage just happened along and it looks like one procession.'

"Sure enough, when the carriages came to the ferry house it was only the ribbon-covered one which entered the gates, the others passing by and on up the street. Onto the boat followed Dick, Steve and Jimmy, keeping well out of sight of the occupants of the carriage, but near enough to retain close watch of them.

"And so they crossed from Windsor to Detroit, and it was not until the carriage had driven off the boat and was on American soil, that Dick determined it was time to take action. As the driver of the bridal carriage was about to whip up his horses and proceed up the street, Dick Dobbs suddenly stepped forward. In the carriage were the figures of two people, a man, dressed as a bridegroom and a woman wearing a bridal veil—the veil Jimmy had sold on the boat.

"As Dick appeared, the man suddenly recognized him and realizing the danger he was in, reached for his revolver, while the driver of the carriage held aloft a huge bludgeon and was attempting to strike Steve, who was covering him with his pistol."

The "bridegroom" is Count Claremont, who, attempting resistance, finds himself yanked out of the carriage with the detective's gun held steadily on him.

"Steve had secured the driver, and the policemen who now came to the rescue at Jimmy's call, seized the horses and the two prisoners, while Dick grasped the bride about the waist. Roughly he dragged her from the carriage and threw her to the ground. The bystanders gasped in horror.

"But Dick's laugh was hearty.

"With a quick movement he broke the figure of the woman at the waistline and from a tank inside the lay body there fell a great bundle of priceless furs.

"The smugglers had been foiled, and every member of the gang cap

tured.

"Dick Dobbs wiped his hands.

"'Let's go back to New York, Jimmy,' he said."

The sharp, swift surprise ending, with a closing remark by the detective hero, is like Dey's endings. Not that it is Fred Dey. But had this weekly been published longer, Dick Dobbs might have given even Nick Carter a bit of competition.

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